

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): An adhesive patch for covering a portion of the anatomical surface of a living being, said patch being able to adhere to the skin, and/or a wound on a part of the body, said patch comprising a backing layer and a layer of a skin-friendly adhesive for adhering to the skin, and the patch further comprising a first central area of a relatively high thickness, a second area surrounding the first area, and a third edge area surrounding the second area, said third area has a pattern of indentations, wherein the indentations are in the form of a pattern of curvilinear indentations.

Claim 2 (original): A patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first area is provided with a pattern of indentations.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A patch as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the pattern of indentations in the first area comprises radial indentations.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A patch as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1 wherein the first area comprises a set of indentations encircling the central part.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A patch as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-4~~ claim 1 wherein the indentations in the third area are in the form of two or more series of curvilinear indentations crossing each other.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A patch as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 wherein the indentations are in the form of grooves having a level bottom.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A patch as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-6~~ claim 1 wherein the curvilinear indentations are defined by a mathematical function of second or higher order or a hyperbolic function.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A patch as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-7~~ claim 1 wherein the third area is provided with radial zones having a thickness comparable with the thickness of the material in the bottom of the indentations in the third area.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An ostomy appliance comprising an adhesive patch as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-8~~ claim 1, said patch being able to adhere to the skin, said patch comprising a backing layer and a layer of a skin-friendly adhesive for adhering to the skin, and said patch having a pattern of indentations wherein the patch comprises a first central area of a relatively high thickness and a hole, a second area surrounding the first area for attaching a collecting bag or a coupling device, and a third edge area surrounding the second area, wherein the first and third areas are provided with indentations and wherein the indentations in the third area are in the form of a pattern of curvilinear indentations.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A wound dressing comprising an adhesive patch as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-8~~ claim 1, said patch being able to adhere to the skin, said patch comprising a backing layer and a layer of a skin-friendly adhesive for adhering to the skin, and said patch having a pattern of indentations wherein the patch comprises a first central area of a relatively high thickness, optionally a second area surrounding the first area, and a third edge area surrounding the first or second area, wherein the first and third areas are provided with indentations and wherein the indentations in the third area are in the form of a pattern of curvilinear indentations.